Handloom Development Corporations, State Handloom Apex and Primary Societies, which can be utilised for the purposes viz., (i) interest subsidy (ii) rebate/discount; (iii) capital/margin money for setting up of showrooms etc., and (iv) any other purpose approved by the Central and/or State Government subject to the condition that the amount of assistance will not exceed 8 per cent of average sales turnover of handloom fabrics, made-ups and garments (excluding Janata Cloth) in the case of State Apex Societies/Corporations and 15 per cent of cash credit limit sanctioned by financial institutions in the case of Primary Societies. The expenditure on this scheme will be shared equally by the Central Government and the concerned States.

Pak Rangers' Connection with Terrorists

2499. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistani Rangers are alleged to be playing an active role both in smuggling of weapons and helping terrorists in crossing the border; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The BSF have lodged protest with the Pak Rangers on a number of occasions. BSF have been strengthened together with border outposts, observation post towers sophisticated equipments vehicles etc. Special measures like wire fencing, wire obstacle flood lighting etc. in sensitive areas of Indo-Pak border are being taken in hand.

Sale of Gold Ornaments by Jewellers in Delhi at Concessional Price

2500. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in 'Vyapar' of Bombay dated the 6th February, 1989 regarding fradulent practice by jewellers in Delhi of selling gold ornaments cheaper than primary gold; if so, what action has been taken in the matter;

(b) whether Government are considering to effect stamping on gold ornaments to ensure its purity as is done in other countries; and

(c) what is the modus operandi of these jewellers who advertise in Delhi newspapers for sale of gold ornaments at concessional price and what preventive action has been taken by the Department concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) A news item is reported to have been published in 'Vyapar' of Bombay dated 6th February, 1989. As there is no price control on gold no action is possible.

(b) Provision already exists under Gold Control Act requiring every licensed dealer to stamp every piece of article or ornament made, manufactured or prepared by him certifying the purity of gold.

(c) As there is no price control on gold, the dealers are at liberty to sell the ornaments at any price. Sale at reduced rates is being done perhaps by cutting down on their profit margin or with a view to dispose of accumulated stocks to save on interest and other inventory carrying costs. If the dealers violate any